

# Inverse Magnetic Catalysis in hot quark matter within (P)NJL models

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## 1 Magnetic Catalysis vs. Inverse Magnetic Catalysis in hot quark matter

In recent years, lattice QCD calculations [1, 2, 3] and effective quarks models [4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9] have been intensively used to investigate magnetized quark matter. An external magnetic field affects the QCD phase diagram structure based in the competition of two opposite mechanisms: on the one hand the magnetic field enhances the chiral condensate due the opening of the gap between the Landau levels, increasing the low-energy contributions to the chiral condensate; on the other hand it contributes to the suppression of the condensate due to the strong screening effect of the gluon interactions in the region of the low momenta relevant for the chiral symmetry breaking mechanism [10]. This suppression of the quark condensate, also known as inverse magnetic catalysis (IMC), manifests itself in the decreasing of the pseudocritical chiral transition temperature obtained in LQCD calculations with physical quark masses [1, 2] and in the increasing of the Polyakov loop [3].

In almost all effective quarks models, including the Nambu–Jona-Lasinio (NJL) model and the Polyakov–Nambu–Jona-Lasinio (PNJL) model [11], with its generalizations like the Entangled PNJL (EPNJL) model [12], the inclusion of a magnetic field in the Lagrangian density allows describing the magnetic catalysis (MC) effect, i.e., the enhancement of the condensate due to the magnetic field, but fails to account for the IMC. In fact, for the NJL model the quarks interact through local current-current couplings, assuming that the gluonic degrees of freedom can be frozen into point like effective interactions between quarks. This leads to the MC effect in the presence of an external magnetic field. Nevertheless, we may expect that the screening of the gluon interaction, discussed above, weakens the interaction which can be translated

into a decrease of the scalar coupling with the intensity of the magnetic field. There are several recent studies that show a weakening effect of the coupling due to the magnetic field presence, and that could be responsible for the of inverse magnetic catalysis mechanism [14, 15, 16, 17]. Recently, two mechanisms were proposed within NJL-type models that can solve this discrepancy with implications in the structure of the QCD phase diagram:

- by using the EPNJL [5] it was proposed that the parameter  $T_0$  that enters in the Polyakov loop potential, that sets the transition temperature for pure-gluon QCD lattice calculations [11], depends on the magnetic field like it can depend on the number of quarks (and on the chemical potential at finite density);
- by using the SU(2) NJL model [13] and the SU(3) NJL/PNJL models [7], the model coupling,  $G_s$ , which can be seen as proportional to the running coupling,  $\alpha_s$ , is made a decreasing function of the magnetic field strength allowing to include the impact of  $\alpha_s$  in the models.

In the present work we will see the implications of the effective coupling that is a function of the magnetic field,  $G_s(eB)$ , on the quark condensates and on the Polyakov loop, respectively the chiral and deconfinement order parameters. In order to do it, we will use the 2+1 PNJL model to describe quark matter subject to strong magnetic fields. The Lagrangian densities in the presence of an external magnetic field within this model is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} = & \bar{q} [i\gamma_\mu D^\mu - \hat{m}_f] q + G_s \sum_{a=0}^8 \left[ (\bar{q} \lambda_a q)^2 + (\bar{q} i\gamma_5 \lambda_a q)^2 \right] \\ & - K \{ \det [\bar{q}(1 + \gamma_5)q] + \det [\bar{q}(1 - \gamma_5)q] \} + \mathcal{U}(\Phi, \bar{\Phi}; T) - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}, \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where besides the chiral point-like coupling  $G_s$ , that denotes the coupling of the scalar-type four-quark interaction in the NJL sector, the quarks couple to a (spatially constant) temporal background gauge field, represented in terms of the Polyakov loop. The Polyakov potential  $\mathcal{U}(\Phi, \bar{\Phi}; T)$  is introduced and depends on the critical temperature  $T_0$ , that for pure gauge is 270 MeV but which we take as 210 MeV.

The thermodynamical potential for the three-flavor quark sector  $\Omega$  is written as

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega(T, \mu) = & G_s \sum_{f=u,d,s} \langle \bar{q}_f q_f \rangle^2 + 4K \langle \bar{q}_u q_u \rangle \langle \bar{q}_d q_d \rangle \langle \bar{q}_s q_s \rangle + \mathcal{U}(\Phi, \bar{\Phi}, T) \\ & + \sum_{f=u,d,s} \left( \Omega_{\text{vac}}^f + \Omega_{\text{med}}^f + \Omega_{\text{mag}}^f \right) \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where the flavor contributions from vacuum  $\Omega_f^{\text{vac}}$ , medium  $\Omega_f^{\text{med}}$ , and magnetic field

$\Omega_f^{\text{mag}}$  [4] are given by

$$\Omega_{\text{vac}}^f = -6 \int_{\Lambda} \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} E_f \quad (3)$$

$$\Omega_{\text{med}}^f = -T \frac{|q_f B|}{2\pi} \sum_{n=0} \alpha_n \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{dp_z}{2\pi} (Z_{\Phi}^+(E_f) + Z_{\Phi}^-(E_f)) \quad (4)$$

$$\Omega_{\text{mag}}^f = -\frac{3(|q_f B|)^2}{2\pi^2} \left[ \zeta'(-1, x_f) - \frac{1}{2}(x_f^2 - x_f) \ln x_f + \frac{x_f^2}{4} \right] \quad (5)$$

where  $E_f = \sqrt{p_z^2 + M_f^2 + 2|q_f B|k}$ ,  $\alpha_0 = 1$  and  $\alpha_{k>0} = 2$ ,  $x_f = M_f^2/(2|q_f B|)$ , and  $\zeta'(-1, x_f) = d\zeta(z, x_f)/dz|_{z=-1}$ , where  $\zeta(z, x_f)$  is the Riemann-Hurwitz zeta function. At zero chemical potential the quark distribution functions  $Z_{\Phi}^+(E_f)$  and  $Z_{\Phi}^-(E_f)$  read

$$Z_{\Phi}^+ = Z_{\Phi}^- = \ln \left\{ 1 + 3\Phi e^{-\beta E_f} + 3\Phi e^{-2\beta E_f} + e^{-3\beta E_f} \right\} \quad (6)$$

once  $\bar{\Phi} = \Phi$ .

## 2 Inverse Magnetic Catalysis in the PNJL model

As already mentioned, the strong coupling  $\alpha_s$  should decrease with the the magnetic field strength. In the NJL model, the four-quark interaction scalar coupling  $G_s$ , that can be seen as  $\propto \alpha_s$ , must also be a decreasing function of  $eB$ .

Since there is no LQCD data available for  $\alpha_s(eB)$ , by using the NJL model we fit  $G_s(eB)$  in order to reproduce the pseudocritical chiral transition temperatures,  $T_c^x(eB)$ , obtained in LQCD calculations [1]. The resulting fit function of  $G_s(eB)$  that reproduces the  $T_c^x(eB)$  is written as

$$G_s(\zeta) = G_s^0 \left( \frac{1 + a\zeta^2 + b\zeta^3}{1 + c\zeta^2 + d\zeta^4} \right) \quad (7)$$

with  $a = 0.0108805$ ,  $b = -1.0133 \times 10^{-4}$ ,  $c = 0.02228$ , and  $d = 1.84558 \times 10^{-4}$  and where  $\zeta = eB/\Lambda_{QCD}^2$ . We have used  $\Lambda_{QCD} = 300$  MeV.

The results for the renormalized critical temperature,  $T_c^x/T_c^x(eB = 0)$ , of the pseudocritical chiral transition as a function of  $eB$  in the NJL model, with the magnetic field dependent coupling  $G_s(eB)$  given by Eq. (7) is plotted in left panel of Fig. 1 (green line) together with LQCD results (red dots), the usual constant coupling  $G_s = G_s^0$  (black dashed dot line) and the ansatz given by  $G_s(eB) = \alpha_s(eB) = 1/(b \ln |eB| \Lambda_{QCD}^2)$  with  $b = (11N_c - 2N_f)/12\pi = 27/12\pi$  [10] (blue dashed line). When  $G_s = G_s^0$  the model always shows a magnetic catalyzes with increasing  $T_c^x/T_c^x(eB = 0)$  for all range of magnetic fields. If we consider  $G_s(eB) = 1/(b \ln |eB| \Lambda_{QCD}^2)$  [10], an

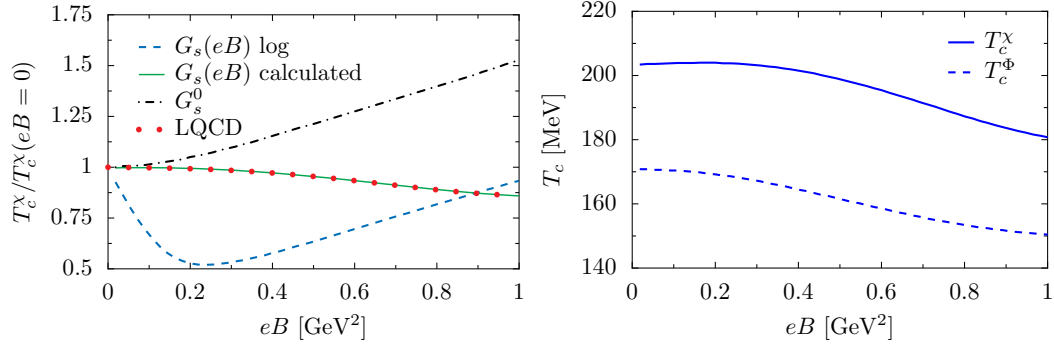


Figure 1: (Left panel) The renormalized critical temperatures of the chiral transition ( $T_c^x(eB=0) = 178$  MeV) as a function of  $eB$  in the NJL model with a magnetic field dependent coupling  $G_s(eB)$  (blue) and a constant coupling  $G_s^0$  (black), and the lattice results (red) [1]. (Right panel) The chiral ( $T_c^x$ ) and deconfinement ( $T_c^\Phi$ ) transitions temperatures as a function of  $eB$  in the PNJL, using the magnetic field dependent coupling  $G_s(eB)$  [Eq. (7)].

IMC is seen until  $eB \approx 0.3 \text{ GeV}^2$ , with the decrease of the pseudocritical temperature for this low magnetic fields. However, for  $eB \gtrsim 0.3 \text{ GeV}^2$ ,  $T_c^x / T_c^x(eB=0)$  increases.

Taking the magnetic field dependent coupling,  $G_s(eB)$ , given by Eq. (7) we calculate the chiral and deconfinement transitions temperatures as a function of  $eB$  in the PNJL model. The results are presented in the right panel of Fig. 1: due to the coupling between the Polyakov loop field and quarks within the PNJL model, the  $G_s(eB)$  does not only affect the chiral transition but also the deconfinement transition, so, both transitions temperatures decrease with the increase of the magnetic field.

In Fig. 2 the results for the average chiral condensate,  $(\Sigma_u + \Sigma_d)/2$ , and the chiral condensate difference,  $\Sigma_u - \Sigma_d$ , are plotted as functions of  $T_c^x / T_c^x(eB=0)$  for several magnetic field strengths and compared with the LQCD results from [2]. We observe a qualitative agreement between both calculations for  $(\Sigma_u + \Sigma_d)/2$  (left panel), meaning that the general features of the LQCD results are now reproduced.

We also observe that SU(3) symmetry of the point like effective interactions between quarks is assumed in the magnetic background, however the comparison with the LQCD results for the difference in the quark condensates,  $\Sigma_u - \Sigma_d$ , in Fig. 2 right panel, suggests that the up quark interaction is depleted with respect to the down quark one. That, seems reasonable as the effect of the magnetic field on the up quark is larger than in the down quark, and, therefore, the interaction between the up quarks should decrease with respect to the down quarks as the magnetic field increases. Consequently, a more detailed calculation must also take into account that the SU(3) symmetry of the pointlike effective interaction between quarks should be broken in the magnetic environment.

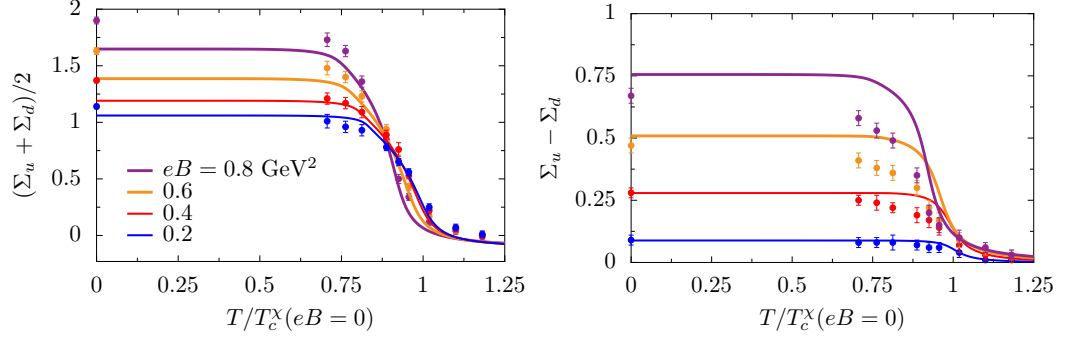


Figure 2: Average  $(\Sigma_u + \Sigma_d)/2$  (left panel) and difference  $(\Sigma_u - \Sigma_d)$  (right panel) of the light chiral condensates as a function of the renormalized temperature, for several values of  $eB$ , and LQCD results [2]. The LQCD data was renormalized by  $T_c^x(eB=0) = 160$  MeV [2] and the PNJL model results by  $T_c^x(eB=0) = 203$  MeV.

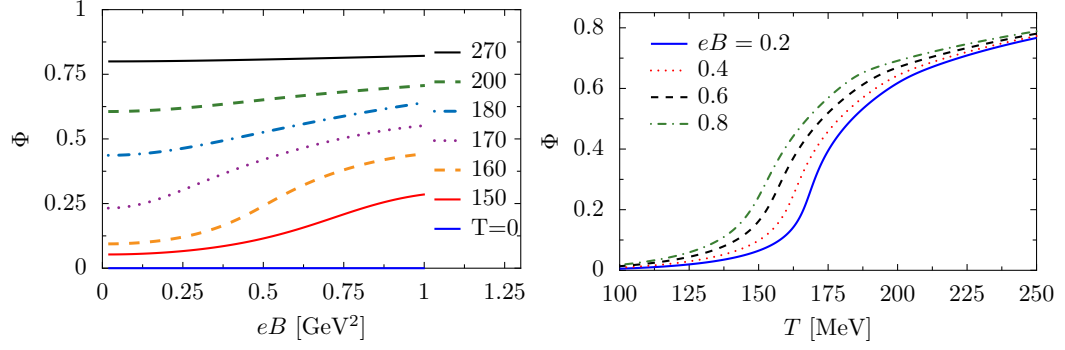


Figure 3: The value of the Polyakov loop versus  $eB$  for several values of  $T$  (MeV) (left panel) and versus  $T$  for several values of  $eB$  in  $\text{GeV}^2$  (right panel).

The effect of the magnetic field on the Polyakov loop is presented in Fig. 3 where  $\Phi$  is plotted as a function of the magnetic field intensity for different values of the temperature (left panel), and as a function of temperature, for several magnetic field strengths (right panel). The suppression of the condensates achieved by the magnetic field dependence of the coupling parameter is translated in an increase of the Polyakov loop. The effect of the magnetic field on  $\Phi$  is stronger precisely for the temperatures close to the transition temperature, see Fig. 3 (left panel), in close agreement with the LQCD results [3].

## Acknowledgement

This work was partially supported by Project No. PEst-OE/FIS/UI0405/2014 developed under the initiative QREN financed by the UE/FEDER through the program

COMPETE – “Programa Operacional Factores de Competitividade”, and by Grant No. SFRH/BD/51717/2011.

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